

HB 1187 - AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

11Mar2020... 1004h

2020 SESSION

20-2253

08/10

HOUSE BILL ***1187***

AN ACT relative to animal shelter facilities.

SPONSORS: Rep. Ford, Graf. 3; Rep. Massimilla, Graf. 1; Rep. Egan, Graf. 2; Rep. Hennessey, Graf. 1; Rep. French, Graf. 14; Rep. Ruprecht, Graf. 15

COMMITTEE: Environment and Agriculture

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill:

I. Allows animal shelters to own or lease their facilities.

II. Clarifies which exemptions apply to animal shelters.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.
Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struckthrough]~~
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty

AN ACT relative to animal shelter facilities.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 1 Definitions; Animal Shelter Facility. Amend RSA 437:1, I to read as follows:

2 I. "Animal shelter facility" means a facility, including the building and the immediate
3 surrounding area, which is used to house or contain animals and which is owned ***or leased***, operated
4 and maintained by a duly incorporated humane society, animal welfare society, society for the
5 prevention of cruelty to animals, or other nonprofit organization devoted to the welfare, protection
6 and humane treatment of animals, and also a public pound for the housing of strays or a pound
7 operated by any person, excluding veterinarians, who contracts with a municipality to serve that
8 function.

9 2 Health Certificates for Dogs, Cats, and Ferrets; Animal Shelters. Amend RSA 437:8, V to read
10 as follows:

11 V. ~~[Animal shelter facilities, as defined in RSA 437:1, I, are exempt from the requirements of~~
12 ~~this section relative to transferring dogs, cats, and ferrets except that:]~~

13 ***(a) All dogs, cats, or ferrets transferred out of an animal shelter facility shall***
14 ***have a form of positive identification, including, but not limited to a tattoo, collar,***
15 ***microchip, ear tag, or any other permanent form of identification approved by the***
16 ***commissioner.***

17 ***(b) All dogs, cats, or ferrets shall be vaccinated against rabies in accordance***
18 ***with RSA 436 before transfer, if proof of rabies vaccination is not available.***

19 ~~[(a)]~~ (c) All animal shelter facilities shall have on premises a microchip scanner and
20 shall maintain a file of recognized pet retrieval agencies, including but not limited to national tattoo
21 or microchip registries.

22 ~~[(b)]~~ (d) Where an owner is not known, all animal shelter facilities shall inspect for
23 tattoos, ear tags, or other permanent forms of positive identification and shall scan for a microchip
24 upon admission of an unclaimed or abandoned animal as defined in RSA 437:18, IV and prior to
25 transferring ownership of an unclaimed or abandoned animal. ***Registered owners or agents shall***
26 ***be contacted as soon as possible, not to exceed 72 hours, and alerted that the animal has***
27 ***been taken in and is available to be reclaimed.***

28 ***(e) If listed owners or agents cannot be located or refuse to reclaim possession of***
29 ***the animal, secondary contacts listed by microchip registries shall be contacted as soon as***
30 ***possible, not to exceed 72 hours.***

31 3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.